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Biography – David Shoemaker is the Director of the MIT LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) Laboratory as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Senior Research Scientist in the Kavli Institute at MIT, as well as a Visiting Associate at the California Institute of Technology. He received a Masters in Physics from MIT in 1980 and a Ph. D. in Physics from the Université de Paris in 1987. He has worked in the field of gravitational wave detection since 1980. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society. He has served on numerous scientific advisory and program committees for the NSF, NASA, and for the European Gravitational Wave Observatory. He has served as the leader of the Advanced LIGO Project since 2006.